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### Items of Interest:

- **Capt. Mark C. Olesen** will relieve Capt. Richard C. Welton as commanding officer of Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune in a change of command ceremony June 26. The ceremony will be held 10 a.m. at the hospital flagpole.
- **Heat stroke.** During the summer months, people exercising outdoors should keep in mind that heat stroke is an ever-present threat. No matter how physically fit you may be, heat stroke can happen. There are a few precautions you can take to keep yourself from suffering from heat stroke: dress for the heat, drink plenty of liquids (especially water), eat small meals and eat more often, avoid salt unless directed by a physician, stay indoors during days that are extremely hot and humid, take regular breaks during outdoor activities, and slow down.

# Navy and Marine Corps Medical News

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## Campa Selected to be Next MCPON

Special release from the Navy Office of Information

**WASHINGTON** - Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Mullen announced June 16 that he has selected Master Chief Petty Officer (SW/FMF) Joe Campa as the 11th Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON).

Campa currently serves as the Command Master Chief for Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

"Master Chief Campa follows a legacy of tremendous service by MCPON Terry Scott," said Mullen. "Master Chief Campa has the Fleet and Fleet Marine Force experience to represent our Sailors not only standing watch at sea and ashore, but also serving in non-traditional



**WASHINGTON** - Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Mike Mullen announced that he had selected Master Chief Petty Officer (SW/FMF) Joe as the 11th Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) June 16. *Official U.S. Navy photo*

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**TAWI-TAWI, Philippines** - Lt. Robert Senko, an optometrist assigned to the Medical Treatment Facility aboard the U.S. Military Sealift Command (MSC) Hospital Ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19), conducts a glaucoma test on Philippine Army Lt. Col. Abdulwahid Usab, during the ship's visit to the city on a scheduled humanitarian mission. *U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist Joseph Caballero*

## Okinawa Corpsman Receives Purple Heart

By Brian J. Davis, Naval Hospital  
Okinawa Public Affairs

### NAVAL HOSPITAL OKINAWA

- Hospital Corpsman 3<sup>rd</sup> Class  
Rakesh Sundram was presented with the Purple Heart at an awards ceremony on Friday, May 26 at Naval Hospital Okinawa.

Sundram earned the award for wounds received in action while he was serving in Iraq with the Marines.

A staff member at Naval Hospital Okinawa, Sundram was previously assigned as a corpsman to 81mm Mortar Platoon, Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. He was wounded when his unit was ambushed while searching for weapons caches in its assigned sector during a clearing operation in Fallujah, Iraq on December 23, 2004.

Sundram was previously awarded a Bronze Star Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device for heroic actions during the same engagement.

Rear Adm. Brian G. Brannman, Commander Navy Medicine West in San Diego, presented the award during a brief ceremony at the hospital. Brannman was in Okinawa during a tour of Navy medical facilities in the region.

The Purple Heart, originally designated at the Badge of Military Merit, was established by General George Washington on August 7, 1782, by order from his headquarters at Newburgh, New York. Military personnel from all services who are killed or wounded as a result of an armed engagement with are entitled to the medal.

Sundram currently serves as an operating room technician at Naval Hospital Okinawa.



**NAVAL HOSPITAL OKINAWA** - Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Rakesh Sundram was presented with the Purple Heart by Rear Adm. Brian G. Brannman, Commander Navy Medicine West at an awards ceremony on Friday, May 26. *U.S. Navy photo by Brian J. Davis*

## MCPON continued...

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missions across the globe. I am looking forward to working with him as we continue to address the important issues facing our Sailors and their families."

Campa enlisted in the Navy June 2, 1980, and completed Recruit Training and Hospital Corps "A" School in San Diego.

Campa was selected to the Command Master Chief (CMC) program in May 1999. His first CMC tour was aboard USS Curtis Wilbur (DDG 54) in Yokosuka, Japan. During his tour, the ship deployed to the North Arabian Sea in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

He subsequently served as the command master chief of Guam-based USS Frank Cable (AS 40).

Campa is a distinguished honor graduate of the U.S. Navy Senior Enlisted Academy, a graduate of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy and has completed the Army Command Sergeants Major course, and has a Bachelor of Sci-

ence Degree from Excelsior College.

In March, he graduated from the Naval War College with a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies.

"The greatest thing about the Navy is that it gives everyone who enlists to serve our country a chance," said Campa after learning of his selection. "No matter where we come from before we put on the uniform, our Navy gives us all the same chance for success. I am proud to serve in an organization that gives us all opportunities for world-class, state-of-the-art training, an education, help with a direction in life, and service with honor.

"Because of the chance the Navy gives us all to succeed, we're only limited by our individual willingness to work hard and our own desires," he added. "I am eternally grateful for the opportunity the Navy gave to me when I first raised my right hand, and how the Navy continued to provide opportunities for success and growth, personally and professionally, throughout my career.

"There is no way I would be in

this position without the help of my shipmates and my friends, and my family. I am humbled beyond words for the opportunity and responsibility I now have been given to serve in this role as MCPON, and I am determined to make sure our Navy continues to offer such opportunities to the best people our country has to offer," Campa said. "To me, that is the best way I can repay in some small way the help, encouragement and faith all the people who have touched my life have given me."

As the Navy's senior enlisted sailor, the MCPON serves as an advisor to the Chief of Naval Operations and to the Chief of Naval Personnel in matters dealing with enlisted personnel and their families.

The MCPON also is an advisor to the many boards dealing with enlisted personnel issues and may be called upon to testify on enlisted personnel issues before Congress; The change of office ceremony is scheduled for July 10 at the Washington Navy Yard.

## III MEF Medical Team in Indonesia to pass 2,000 Patient Mark

By Sgt. Ethan E. Rocke, Camp Butler

**CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa** - III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) medical personnel supporting disaster relief efforts in Indonesia treated their 2,000th patient June 8 Marine officials said.

Since deploying to the region two days after the country was ravaged by a devastating earthquake, Marines and sailors from III MEF have provided critical care to an average of 229 patients per day, according to 1st Lt. Eric Tausch, a Marine spokesman in Indonesia.

The 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) medical assistance team, consisting of 172 Marines and sailors, arrived in Indonesia May 29 and set up a mobile medical facility in a local soccer stadium in Sewon.

In the first 10 days of the relief effort, six mobile medical teams traveled to several Indonesian villages, medical clinics and hospitals in the area, treating 580 patients. The teams also provided much

needed relief to the overflowing, local hospitals by treating 1,251 patients at the 3rd MEB mobile facility in Sewon. The 3rd MEB team's two surgeons performed 55 surgeries in conjunction with the nearly 2,000 treatments.

"The facility was capable of general surgery and acute, urgent, and primary care, but it morphed into a deliverer of a broad spectrum of post disaster health services," said Navy Capt. David A. Lane, the 3rd MEB command surgeon. "These services even include tetanus vaccinations for all patients with open wounds."

Third MEB vaccinations have augmented efforts by the World Health Organization to address serious concerns about the vulnerability to disease caused by the earthquake.

The earthquake's destruction displaced hundreds of thousands of Indonesians. Many are at risk of contracting tetanus, a devastating bacterial infection that usually originates from a contaminated laceration or deep puncture wound. Tetanus causes prolonged contraction of muscles resulting from rapidly re-



**INDONESIA** - Azizahtul Ummah remained in high spirits as Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Tracey Waycaster examines the seven-year-old for injuries at 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) disaster assistance team's mobile hospital. Ummah suffered minor scrapes and bruises during the 6.3-magnitude earthquake that devastated Central Java, Indonesia, May 27. *U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Warren Peace*

tion or deep puncture wound. Tetanus causes prolonged contraction of muscles resulting from rapidly re-

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## Hospital Corps Marks 108th Anniversary with Wreath-Laying Ceremony

By Christine A. Mahoney, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Public Affairs

**WASHINGTON** - Navy Medicine commemorated the 108<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its Hospital Corps and paid tribute to Sailors who provided medical and dental care to their fellow service members with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Navy Memorial on June 16.

"Having the privilege to serve in the U. S. Navy as a hospital corpsman carries a unique, many times unwritten responsibility. Since the inception of the Hospital corps, our Sailors possess a certain something, that caring and compassion that cannot be taught," said Master Chief Hospital Corpsman Vincent Shutz, Deputy Director of the Hospital Corps. "The type of care that our sick and injured are accustomed to receiving from our corpsmen, whether on the battlefield or

at one of our medical treatment facilities. To all hospital corpsmen past, present and future, I salute you for possessing that special something and for carrying on the tradition of the Hospital Corps."

Rear Adm. Richard A. Buchanan (Ret.), President and Chief Executive Officer of the United States Navy Memorial hosted the event. Rear Adm. Dennis D. Woofter, Dental Corps, Deputy Director Medical Resources, Plans and Policies, Chief of Naval Operations; and Shutz, were honored guests and participants in the ceremony.

With the Color and Honor Guards standing at attention on both sides of the Lone Sailor statue, a wreath with red and white flowers was placed at the foot of the statue. The wreath is a token of honor to all hospital corpsmen, past, present and future.

Navy Medicine Sailors have pro-



**WASHINGTON**— Rear Adm. Richard A. Buchanan (Ret., right), Rear Adm. Dennis D. Woofter, and Master Chief Hospital Corpsman Vincent Shutz salute the Lone Sailor after placing a wreath at the foot of the statue in honor of the 108th anniversary of the Hospital Corps. *U.S. Navy photo by Christine A. Mahoney*

vided care to their fellow Sailors and Marines for the past 164 years. With a force of 23,000 active duty



## Marine Receives First Artificial Cornea Transplant at NMCSD

By Christine A. Mahoney, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery  
Public Affairs

**WASHINGTON** – Doctors at Naval Medical Center San Diego (NMCSD) performed the first artificial cornea transplant on a service member May 11, 2005.

"The artificial cornea, the Boston Keratoprothesis, is the latest and greatest in traumatic eye injury medical treatment," said Cmdr. Elizabeth Hofmeister, Ophthalmologist, NMCSD. "The marine had a serious injury that could have permanently impaired his vision. With this cornea replacement, he can now see."

The Marine who received the artificial cornea served during the initial months of Operation Iraqi Freedom in June 2003. He received injuries to his right eye during a rocket propelled grenade attack on the armor vehicle the Marine was riding in.

"He suffered the loss of his natural lens (traumatic aphakia), loss of the iris (total traumatic aniridia), and a retinal detachment," said Hofmeister. "The laceration to his cornea was so massive that a cornea transplant was needed."

The Marine received an initial cornea transplant at the military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany. However, a couple of months later in Nov. 2003, that transplant was

rejected. Another two series of cornea transplants occurred, with both transplants resulting in rejections as well.

"The artificial cornea transplant was a last-resort move to save the Marine's sight," she said. "After three separate cornea transplant rejections, we knew that this transplant was our last hope. We are so pleased that this transplant worked and the Marine was able regain good vision." He is now one year out from his surgery and has maintained excellent 20/20 vision in the eye with the artificial cornea.

According to Hofmeister, the artificial cornea consists of an anterior optic with peg, donor cornea tissue, posterior plate with large fenestrations, and a titanium locking ring.

Among the doctors who performed the transplant surgery (including Hofmeister) was guest surgeon Dr. Sadeem Hannush, who is an attending surgeon with the Willis Eye Hospital in Philadelphia.

According to Hofmeister, the Boston Keratoprothesis was created by Claes Dohlman at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary at Harvard. The artificial cornea has been under development since the 1960s and has gradually been perfected. It received FDA clearance in 1992.

## MEF Medical continued...

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peated motor impulses, and it is fatal in more than 30 percent of cases.

Several cases of tetanus have surfaced already, and 3rd MEB personnel have started a mass vaccination program, according to Tausch.

"We came here with about 10,000 doses of tetanus vaccine, and we're working to get through all 10,000 doses," Tausch said. "Basically, our mobile medical teams are going door-to-door to support the Indonesian governments' efforts to address the tetanus threat."

Tausch said he believes the teams have already ad-

ministered about half of the 10,000 doses, and they're trying to administer the remainder as quickly as possible.

"We're going to vaccinate as many as we can while we're here," he said. "Tetanus is threatening their lives here."

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld met recently with Indonesian Defense Minister Juwono Sudarsono. During the meeting, they discussed the combined efforts of U.S. and Indonesian forces in the disaster relief effort, which involves more than 20 countries.

Marine officials reported that Sudarsono expressed his appreciation for U.S. involvement.

**JOLO, Philippines** - U.S. Military Sealift Command (MSC) Hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19), anchored off of the coast of Jolo City. Since its arrival, Mercy's staff has assisted thousands of local citizens with medical and dental care. During its stay, this care was provided by a portion of Mercy's staff working side by side with their Filipino counterparts at several medical centers in the city, as well as patients being given care on the ship itself. Mercy is on a five-month humanitarian deployment to South and Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Islands. *U.S. Navy photo by Chief Photographer's Mate Edward G. Martens*



*"You will do heroic work caring for our service members and their families," he said. "These are our most precious assets."*

## Admiral Lauds Military Medical Professionals

By Steven Donald Smith, American Forces Press Service

**BETHESDA** - U.S. military medical professionals are some of the best in the world and contribute greatly to American operations around the world, said Adm. Edmund P. Giambastiani, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to more than 300 graduates at the 2006 National Capital Area Joint Service Graduation Ceremony here June 16.

"All of you represent first-class medicine," he said. "Congratulations and well done to each and every one of you."

The graduates included medical interns, residents and fellows who received certificates from the National Naval Medical Center, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in specialties ranging from radiology to orthopedics.

"I am incredibly impressed by your dedication," Giambastiani said.

The admiral said that many in attendance would soon be deployed in support of troops fighting the global war on terrorism.

"We, in fact, are at war. Your country needs each and every one of you graduate trainees," he said. "More importantly, our operators and warfighters in the field need each and every one of you."

He said their medical professionalism instills a sense of confidence and comfort in all service members and their families.

"You will do heroic work caring

for our service members and their families," he said. "These are our most precious assets."

Military medicine has made tremendous advancements over the past six decades, he said. During World War II, the Korean and Vietnam wars, and up through Desert Storm, about 25 percent of Americans injured in combat eventually died from their wounds, he said.

"Today that number has been dramatically decreased to one in ten," he said. "That in itself is a huge accomplishment."

Giambastiani said military medical personnel are also doing tremendous work in the humanitarian assistance arena. He said that after a massive earthquake struck Pakistan last year, military medical folks were quickly on the ground, ready to help.

During that aid mission American military doctors treated 30,000 Pakistanis, he said.

"Pakistanis will always remember the CH-47 Chinook helicopters that carried doctors, patients and medical supplies. They were called angels of mercy by the Pakistanis," he said. "In fact, I've been told by visiting delegations from Pakistan that the favorite children's toy in Pakistan is the Chinook helicopter."

Missions such as these show the U. S. at its compassionate best, he said.

"In the end, medical professionals may help us do more to win this war on terror than purely kinetic operations," the admiral said. "We are forever grateful for the task each of you is about to take on."



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**TAWI TAWI, Philippines** – Lt. Cmdr. Ronda Bouwens evaluates a child as part of a medical assistance mission deployed from the USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) June 16. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 1st Class Troy Latham